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to be the work of a people inhabiting the country before the present natives came." Finally, mention may be made of the plates of rock and bark drawings (men, animals, and mythical beings or Mormo) included in the chapter on Decorative Art.

Professor Spencer laments that he has lost the cooperation of Mr. Gillen, to whose memory he dedicates the book. Mr. Gillen's death was, it is true, a serious blow to anthropological science; but the surviving author has well maintained the standard of the two previous works. The chapters deal, in what is now familiar fashion, with social organization, marriage and initiation; totem groups and ceremonial objects; burial and mourning ceremonies, magic and medicine; customs, beliefs, traditions; food restrictions; weapons, clothing, implements and art. An appendix contains vocabularies and language notes. There are 92 photographic reproductions, beside text-diagrams and maps; and there are 36 plates, of which eight are in color.

E. B. T.

The Khasis. By P. R. T. GURDON. With an introduction by Sir C. LYALL. Second ed., illustrated. London, Macmillan & Co., 1914. pp. xxiv, 232.

The Khasis inhabit the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, an Assamese district of some 6,000 square miles whose capital is Shillong. They are isolated among an encircling population of Tibeto-Burman stock; and who they precisely are, and where they came from, are still unsettled questions. Their nearest affinity is to the Mon people of Further India, and they may have moved into Assam from the south-east, linguistic evidence is accumulating, but general anthropological data are still to seek.

The Khasis present three distinctive features which recommend them to the anthropologist. "In the first place, their social organization presents one of the most perfect examples still surviving of matriarchal institutions." Secondly, they possess remarkable methods "of divination for ascertaining the causes of misfortune and the remedies to be supplied. . . . It is somewhat surprising to find among them the identical method of *extispicium* which was in use among the Romans, as well as an analogous development in the shape of egg-breaking . . . which seems to have been known to diviners in ancient Hellas." Thirdly, they have "the custom, which prevails to this day, of setting up great memorials of rough stone, of the same style and character as the *menhirs* and *cromlechs* which are found in Western Europe, Northern Africa, and Western Asia." All these things are set forth, with ample illustration and in full detail, by Colonel Gurdon, under the headings of General Description, Domestic Life, Laws and Customs, Religion, Folk-lore (typical folk-tales, in translation and in the original, are given). Miscellaneous (naming of parents from children; method of calculating time; characters and customs of the Lynggams), and Language. Three appendices deal with the exogamous clans of the Cherra and Khyrim states, and with divination by egg-breaking.

The work was first published, as a government monograph, in 1907. It has now been brought up to date, especially upon the side of language, furnished with a bibliography, and illustrated by ten colored plates from water-color drawings. The book further contains a map, and a number of photographic reproductions. It is a member of the series which contains Colonel Shakespear's monograph on the Lushei Kuki Clans (this JOURNAL, xxiv., 287).